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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Confirmation No.: 5176

Rainer DREIER et al.

Date: October 17, 2007

Serial No.: 10/527,521

Group Art Unit: 3753

Filed: April 14, 2005

Examiner: John K. Fristoe Jr.

For: APPARATUS FOR BLOCKING AND/OR SEALING OFF A LINE

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Sir:

In response to the requirement of the Interview Summary of the telephonic interview on September 10, 2007, mailed in the above-captioned application on September 17, 2007, that Applicant file a Statement of the Substance of the Interview, the statement of the substance of the interview follows.

In the interview the Examiner indicated that, upon filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and an Amendment containing independent claims 1 and 12 amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A blocking apparatus for blocking or sealing off a line for transporting dust-laden gases, wherein the line has an open area along a length of the line at which the line may be blocked or sealed;
the apparatus including
a sealing element at the open area of the line;
a movable closure body which selectively bears against the sealing element in a blocking or sealing position of the closure body;
a rotation device connected to the closure body for rotating the closure body about an axis of rotation, the rotation device extending along the rotation axis;
a flexible linkage between the rotation device and the closure body, so constructed that the closure body can move along a direction of the axis of rotation and also can move in a direction which is perpendicular to the axis of rotation, such that the closure body slides on the sealing element whereby the position and location of the closure body may be altered at least along the direction of the axis of rotation; and
a spacer which is operable hydraulically actuated to apply a force to move the closure body at least along the direction of the axis of rotation at least during operation of the blocking apparatus.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a blocking apparatus for blocking or sealing off a line in which dust-laden gases or gases laden with solid particles are transported, wherein the apparatus includes a movable closure body, ~~[[and]]~~ a sealing element against which the closure body is placed when the line is being blocked, ~~and an~~ a first actuating device for the closure body by which the closure body is placed against the sealing element when the line is being blocked by rotation of the closure body about an axis of rotation, and a second actuating device for the closure body which is hydraulically actuated, the method comprising:

moving the closure body by means of a suitable flexible linkage to the actuating device along the direction of the axis of rotation and also in a direction which is perpendicular to the axis, such that the closure body slides freely on the sealing element, and

applying an external force by the second actuating device to alter the location and position of the closure body along the direction of the axis of rotation or in a direction which is perpendicular to the axis, at least during operation of the blocking apparatus.

he will enter the Amendment and the outstanding rejections will be overcome, forcing him to conduct a renewed search based upon the amended claims.

The Examiner further indicated that he did not see in the drawings where it was indicated that the spacer was hydraulically actuated, as provided in amended independent claim 1. Applicants' representative could not point out to him during the interview a portion of the drawings in which this was shown. He indicated that he might object to the drawings on the ground that they do not show the hydraulic actuation of the spacer.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 17, 2007:

Robert C. Faber

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

Signature

October 17, 2007

Date of Signature

RCF/MIM:lac

Respectfully submitted,



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